

1 **March 28, 2017**

2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 President Munson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY Deputy Chief Marovich.**

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Harris, Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Thuner.

9 **Absent:** None.

10 **Staff Present:** Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, Attorney James and Board Secretary Stephen-  
11 Porter. In the audience were: Deputy Chief Marovich, D/Cs Lucore and Mahr, B/Cs  
12 McReynolds, Schoenheit and Wilson, DFM Koch and members of the public and  
13 Association.

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15 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

16 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Munson addressed the audience and inquired whether  
17 there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. There being no  
18 comments, the Public Comment Section was closed.

19 2. **EMPLOYEE BADGE PINNING — CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott presented for installation  
20 the following new employees: Shane Applegate, Adrian Del Castillo, Garrett Mertz,  
21 Gannon Oppenborn, Sam Richards, Kakela Sousa and Weston Whitmore, who are all  
22 Volunteer Firefighters at Rainbow. Two of the members were unable to attend the  
23 ceremony. At the conclusion of the introductions, the members were sworn in. All  
24 members were given an opportunity to introduce family and friends available for the event  
25 and were pinned and congratulated by the Board.

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27 **ACTION AGENDA**

28 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

29 3. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR MARCH 1, 2017**

- 30 4. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING FOR MARCH 15, 2017**
- 31 5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2017**
- 32 6. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**
- 33 7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2017-04 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**
- 34 **NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT MAKING ANNUAL REQUIRED FINDINGS OF**
- 35 **THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE MITIGATION FEE PARTICIPATION ORDINANCE FY**
- 36 **2017/2018**

37 President Munson inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 3-7.

38 There being no discussion, President Munson asked for a motion to approve the Consent

39 Agenda. On a motion by Director Harris, seconded by Vice President Thuner, the motion

40 to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented, passed unanimously.

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42 **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 43 8. **REVIEW AND APPROVE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT REQUEST — CHIEF MAHR AND CHIEF**
- 44 **ABBOTT:** D/C Mahr presented a request to surplus two 1990 General Fire Engines, one
- 45 2008 IHC Model 34 (salvaged title), 2-Crown Victoria's (1999/2000) and one 1996
- 46 Suburban owned by the Rainbow Division, as they are no longer serviceable within the
- 47 Mission of the District. The equipment will be disposed of via set policy requirements. He
- 48 noted that the vehicles have been in storage for some time and two new staff vehicles
- 49 have been purchased. On a motion by Director Hoffman, seconded by Director Luevano,
- 50 the motion to declare the equipment surplus and to dispose of it via the policy passed
- 51 unanimously.

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53 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

- 54 9. **DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIC DIRECTION DISCUSSION — CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott
- 55 presented his revised Strategic Direction Report for discussion noting the seven areas of
- 56 concern he and the Board had identified: Facilities; Restoration of Reserve Funds Utilized
- 57 During Recession; Public Outreach in the Community; Station Staffing and Apparatus
- 58 Deployment; Capital Equipment; Community Paramedicine and Restoration of

59 Administrative Capacity. He noted some are short-term issues, currently being worked on  
60 by Staff and others are long-term issues, which require more in-depth analysis and  
61 planning. Discussion ensued regarding what steps are currently being taken to prepare  
62 the Board to make decisions with regard to meeting the challenges outlined. Chief Abbott  
63 noted the District is preparing a RFP for a Capital Plan/Reserve Study, which should go  
64 out shortly. He noted the references previously provided for this study, did not have  
65 municipal experience, which he felt was critical to providing an accurate District picture.  
66 Discussion ensued regarding what types of data is required to assist the Board in their  
67 decision processes and the timing of receipt of the information. In-depth discussion  
68 ensued regarding the need for public outreach, the goals of such a program and whether a  
69 Bond should be pursued, its goal, the costs and who would handle its pursuit and timing of  
70 such a Bond. The consensus of the Board being that more information is required before  
71 that decision could be made. Discussion ensued regarding other options for bringing  
72 money into the District including such items sale of properties, realignment of deployment  
73 and staffing, grant opportunities. Chief Abbott noted the capabilities and limitations of  
74 current Staff, discussing the current projects underway for the short-term issues. He noted  
75 some of the costs associated with bringing in outside professionals to prepare for a bond,  
76 facilities evaluations and improvements, public outreach and election costs. At the  
77 conclusion of discussion, it was the consensus of the Board of have a Board workshop to  
78 discuss long-term Strategic Planning, with a target date of April 18<sup>th</sup>.

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80 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

81 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his letter “Legal Billing  
82 Invoices Related to Lawsuits Filed Against the County of Los Angeles are not Categorical  
83 Exempt from Disclosure Under the Public Records Act.” Brief discussion ensued. This is  
84 informational only, no action required.

85 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

86 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items.  
87 Informational only, no action required.

88 ● **NEWS ARTICLES:** Brief discussion ensued regarding articles. This is informational  
89 only, no action required.

90 ● **COMMENTS:**

91 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

92 ● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott updated the Board on the Live  
93 Burn at the former Fallbrook Golf Club, thanking D/C Lucore and Mahr, the Battalion  
94 Chiefs and all the fire instructors and participants for making the event a success. He  
95 noted the event was a rare opportunity for the North Zone to train instructors and provide  
96 live fire training to the crews. Chief Abbott made the Board aware of a recent Little Hoover  
97 Commission recommendation that special districts be eliminated with a sunset date of ten  
98 years, as they consider them to be inefficient. He noted that about ten years ago, the  
99 same Commission found that special district were the most efficient form of government.  
100 CSDA was alarmed by the report and is working to address the issue, which is felt to be  
101 more of an opportunity to obtain funds now held in reserves in special districts. Chief  
102 Abbott updated the Board on the State Fire Fee, noting he will be speaking at the FDAC  
103 conference on this matter. Chief Mahr will be Acting Fire Chief in his absence while at the  
104 conference and during his vacation. Chief Abbott lauded the Association for collecting  
105 \$14,000 with the "Fill the Boot" fund raiser. Chief also noted that DFM Koch has been  
106 installed as first VP in the Fire Protection Officers organization, congratulating her. Finally,  
107 the Chief reminded the Board of the Employee Recognition dinner at Pala Mesa on  
108 Saturday. Informational only, no further action required.

109 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF:** **CHIEF MAHR:** Chief Mahr updated the Board on  
110 the vehicle purchase, noting he expects the new Battalion Chief vehicle within the week.  
111 The new ambulance has arrived and is being outfitted by the Shop. **CHIEF MAROVICH:**  
112 Chief Marovich informed the Board he has been working on the Budget for the May  
113 meeting. **CHIEF McREYNOLDS:** Chief McReynolds informed the Board that the new radios,  
114 required by Federal mandate, are here and are being installed. He expects the installation  
115 and programming to be completed by the end of the year. Thereafter, the old radios will  
116 be brought as surplus and disposed of per Policy.

117 ● **BOARD: VICE PRESIDENT THUNER:** Vice President Thuner noted she will not be at the  
118 May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as she will be at another meeting. Discussion ensued regarding moving  
119 the Board date. No change in meeting date was made.

120 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS: CAPTAIN MANN:** Captain Mann spoke on behalf of the  
121 Association noting the Association's reaction to the Interest Based Decision-Making  
122 process. They felt the education was timely and interesting; noting that everyone worked  
123 collaboratively. He stated he was looking forward to working through using the technique  
124 and being involved in the Strategic Planning process.

125 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

## 126 127 **CLOSED SESSION**

### 128 ● **OPENING CLOSED SESSION:**

129 At 6:25 p.m., President Munson inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed  
130 Session. On a motion by Vice President Thuner, seconded by Director Hoffman, President  
131 Munson read the items to be discussed in Closed Session and the Open Session was  
132 closed. After a short break, the Board entered Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. to hear:

133 CS-1. **ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT MUNSON:** An announcement regarding the items to  
134 be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the commencement of Closed  
135 Session.

136 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**  
137 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT:**

138 **PROPERTY LOCATION:** 330 S. Main Avenue, Fallbrook, CA 92028;

139 **PARTIES:** North County Fire Protection District (Purchaser) and Ian Forsythe (Seller);

140 **UNDER NEGOTIATION:** Terms of Purchase;

141 **DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:** Chief Abbott, District Counsel James

142 CS-3. **THREATENED LITIGATION OUTSIDE OF OPEN MEETING — GOVERNMENT CODE §**  
143 **54956.9(e)(5) — CHIEF ABBOTT:**

144 Claimant is a member of public alleging assault by District employee.

145 CS-4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT MUNSON**

146 ● **REOPENING OPEN SESSION:**

147 On a motion by Vice President Thuner, which was seconded by Director Luevano and  
148 which passed unanimously, the Board returned to Open Session at 6:50 p.m. The  
149 following items were reported out to the public:

150 CS-4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT MUNSON:**

151 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**  
152 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT:** No reportable action.

153 CS-3. **THREATENED LITIGATION OUTSIDE OF OPEN MEETING — GOVERNMENT CODE §**  
154 **54956.9(e)(5) — CHIEF ABBOTT:** No reportable action.

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156 **ADJOURNMENT**

157 A motion was made at 7:00 p.m. by Director Harris and seconded by Director Luevano, to  
158 adjourn the meeting and reconvene on April 25, 2017, at 17:00. The motion carried  
159 unanimously.

160 Respectfully submitted,

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163 Loren Stephen-Porter

164 Board Secretary

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166 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: April 25, 2017

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